

**Amendments to the Claims**

1.-24. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing internet access to a network device through a first access provider, the method comprising:

in an access server of the first access provider, generating a logon query for the network device;

transmitting a the logon query from the access server to the network device;

in the access server, receiving a logon response from the network device to gain the internet access through from the first access provider through the access server and wherein the logon response includes a prepaid account code;

transferring the prepaid account code from the access server to a ~~local~~ central database system ~~of the first access provider;~~

in the ~~local~~ central database system, processing the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with~~ known in a local database system associated with the first access provider; and

if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with the first access provider~~ known in the local database system, providing the internet access to the network device through the first access provider;

if the prepaid account code is not ~~associated with the first access provider~~ known in the local database system, identifying a foreign database system of a second access provider based on the prepaid account code and transferring the prepaid account code to a the foreign database system of a second access provider;

in the foreign database system, processing the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with the second access provider~~ known in the foreign database system; and

if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with the second access provider~~ known in the foreign database system, providing the internet access to the network device through the access server of the first access provider.

26. (CANCELED)

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 further comprising if the network device is not allowed to access the internet, transferring a decline message to the access server.

28. (CANCELED)

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 wherein the prepaid account code is linked to a prepaid account and wherein the prepaid account code is displayed on a prepaid account card and wherein the second access provider provides the prepaid account card to a user and wherein the user utilizes the network device and the prepaid account card to access the internet.

30. (CANCELED)

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CANCELED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for providing internet access to a network device through a first access provider, the system comprising:

an access server of the first access provider configured generate a logon query for the network device and to transmit a the logon query from the access server to the network device, receive a logon response from the network device to gain the internet access through from the first access provider through the access server wherein the logon response includes a prepaid account code, and transfer the prepaid account code from the access server to a ~~local~~ central database system ~~of the first access provider;~~

the ~~local~~ central database system configured to process the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with~~ known in a local database system associated with the first access provider, identify a foreign database system of a second access provider based on the prepaid account code if the prepaid account code is not known in the local database system and transfer the prepaid account code to a the foreign database system of a second access provider if the prepaid account code is not associated with the first access provider;

the foreign database system configured to process the prepaid account code to determine if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with the second access provider~~ known in the foreign database system; and

the access server of the first access provider configured to provide internet access to the network device if the prepaid account code is ~~associated with~~ known in the local database system associated with the first access provider or ~~and provide internet access to the network device if the prepaid account code is associated with~~ known in the foreign database system associated with the second access provider.

34. (CANCELED)

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 33 wherein the ~~local~~ central database system is further configured to transfer a decline message to the access server if the network device is not allowed to access the internet through the first access provider.

36. (CANCELED)

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33 wherein the prepaid account code is linked to a prepaid account and wherein the prepaid account code is displayed on a prepaid account card and wherein the second access provider provides the prepaid account card to a user and wherein the user utilizes the network device and the prepaid account card to access the internet.

38. (CANCELED)

39. (CANCELED)

40. (CANCELED)